

Target Text: "Psychological Criticism"

Due: Week 7 (13-FEB)

Length: at least 1/2 but no more than 1 full page (double-spaced). Use your MLA Essay template. Include parenthetical notes to reference the individual page numbers. Use your MLA essay template to submit CR#4, and be sure to title the assignment using CR#4 in the main title and then add a colon and a subtitle.

Task:

During the last couple weeks, we have been examining short stories by applying psychological criticism. Psychological critics argue that everyone's formative history is different, but there are basic recurrent patterns of development that have lasting effects. Yet, the characters whom psychological critics speak of as having a life of their own are only fictional constructs. Can a fictional character have an unconscious? Is it enough to say that the character (as a projection of the mind of the artist) is symbolic of the author's own unconscious desires and fantasies? Or, is it just goofy to psychoanalyze imaginary people?